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ADD 2 CUBA, WASHINGTON

CPYRGHT

THE NAVY'S DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE TESTIFIED TODAY THAT HE BECAME "INCREASINGLY APPREHENSIVE" LAST SEPTEMBER ABOUT THE NATURE OF RUSSIA'S MILITARY BUILDUP IN CUBA AND ORDERED HIS AIDES TO GO ALL OUT TO DETERMINE ITS NATURE AND EXTENT.

REAR ADM. VERNON L. LOWRANCE TESTIFIED THAT NAVY INTELLIGENCE EFFORTS AIMED ESPECIALLY AT FINDING POSSIBLE SUBMARINE BASES. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT "THE POSSIBILITY OF MISSILES OF STRATEGIC RANGE AS WELL AS BOMBERS AND SUBMARINES WAS CONSTANTLY CONSIDERED AND CONSTANTLY WATCHED FOR" BY THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

LOWRANCE TESTIFIED BEHIND CLOSED-DOORS IN THE CUBA INQUIRY BEING CONDUCTED BY THE SENATE PREPAREDNESS SUBCOMMITTEE. A DECLASSIFIED VERSION OF HIS STATEMENT, MADE PUBLIC BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE, GAVE THE SAME RUN-DOWN ON RUSSIA'S PRESENT CUBA FORCES AS WAS PROVIDED EARLY THIS MONTH BY JOHN A. MCCOONE, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE.

LOWRANCE TESTIFIED THAT "RELIABLE COVERAGE OF CUBA IS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM." HE SAID THAT "ON THIS SCORE WE TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED. EVERY REPORT IS TAKEN AS FACE VALUE UNTIL IT CAN BE THOROUGHLY CHECKED OUT."

"AFTER ALL," HE SAID, "THE INTELLIGENCE AVAILABLE WAS AND STILL IS GOOD ENOUGH TO SHOW THAT THE SOVIETS MEANT TO GAIN AND MAINTAIN IF POSSIBLE A SECURE Foothold IN CUBA SO AS TO POSE A REAL AND PRESENT THREAT TO THE SECURITY AND PEACE OF THIS HEMISPHERE."

HE TESTIFIED THAT CUBAN RADIO TRANSMITTERS, THE CUBAN PRESS SERVICE, PRESS AGENTS, AND CUBAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HAVE BEEN SPREADING COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA IN LATIN AMERICA. HE SAID IT IS "THE BETTER PART OF WISDOM TO CONSIDER THE CUBAN PRESENCE FOR SUBVERSION IN LATIN AMERICA AS A SERIOUS THREAT."

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